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Meetings With Veterans, Small Business Owners, Seniors and Families Will Be Focus of District-Wide Travel

(ST. LOUIS, MO) - Rep. Russ Carnahan (MO-03) will spend the next five-plus weeks traveling throughout the Third Congressional District, meeting with groups of veterans about recent patient safety concerns at the Cochran VA medical center and talking with families, seniors and small business owners about the challenges facing America and what is being done to help get people back to work.

"I always look forward to spending time meeting with constituents here at home,"
Carnahan said.

"These conversations are one of my favorite parts about being a Representative. But more importantly, talking face-to-face with the people who are out there every day, trying to build a better life for their families helps me understand the challenges people face and what I can do to help."

This week, Carnahan will kick off the August District Work Period by visiting with families and community members at National Night Out gatherings throughout the St. Louis area on Tuesday, August 3. On Thursday, he will hold events in St. Louis and Jefferson Counties to highlight new federal initiatives to help families and veterans afford a college education

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Throughout the month, Carnahan will meet with groups of veterans in every corner of the district

to discuss recent safety lapses at the John Cochran VA Medical Center that potentially exposed over 1800 veterans to blood-borne pathogens. Carnahan has pressed the VA for specific answers regarding the incident, and announced last week that the Government Accountability Office and the Inspector General of the VA had launched formal investigations.

"Our veterans deserve nothing less than the absolute best care available," Carnahan said. "I want to know what the VA is doing to care for the veterans who have been affected by this, and I want to know what they are doing to make sure it never happens again. I will not rest until we get answers."

Carnahan will also hold a series of small business events throughout the month, including hosting a manufacturing summit on August 27. At the summit, which is the latest in an ongoing series of workshops designed to help area small businesses, local small manufacturers can learn more about existing resources, such as tax incentives, workforce training programs, assistance with trade and exporting goods, and intellectual property rights.

"We have to end tax breaks for companies who are sending American jobs overseas and make smart investments in small businesses, infrastructure - things we know are proven to help create jobs here at home in the short and long term," Carnahan said. "In the meantime, I want to make sure small businesses here in Missouri are taking advantage of every resource available to help them grow and hire more workers."

Last week, Carnahan expressed frustration that Senate Republicans continued to filibuster a House-passed measure that would free up needed capital that small businesses desperately need to hire more workers. In the meantime, the House of Representatives approved several "Make It In America" measures to close tax loopholes for corporations that ship American jobs overseas, rebuild America's manufacturing base, and grow new jobs by promoting American competitiveness, innovation and exports.

Carnahan will also help celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Social Security with a tour of senior centers throughout the district, talking with seniors about his efforts to protect Social Security, help seniors pay for prescription drugs, and crack down on predatory financial schemes that target seniors.

"It's hard to believe that even after millions of Americans saw their retirement savings gambled away Wall Street speculators there are still some politicians who want to privatize Social Security and Medicare," Carnahan said. "I will not let that happen on my watch."

Details regarding Carnahan's schedule for the August District Work period will be released on an ongoing basis throughout the month.

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